

STATINTL

Dodd File Looting Described in Court

By Paul Valentine

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Attorneys for Sen. Thomas A. Dodd (D-Conn.) accused columnist Jack Anderson in District Court yesterday of sending two former Dodd employees into the Senator's office to steal documents to get "incriminating evidence" for a series of recent articles against Dodd.

Attorney John F. Sonnett said Dodd's former administrative assistant, James P. Boyd, has admitted in depositions preparatory to trial of Dodd's "upcoming \$2 million libel suit against Anderson and colleague Drew Pearson that he went "surreptitiously" into the office on a Saturday afternoon with another un-

identified persons and lifted documents on Anderson's request.

The charges came on a motion by Pearson-Anderson lawyers to dismiss the libel suit on grounds it fails to state a clear and concise complaint in violation of Federal procedural rules. Judge Alexander Holtzoff threw out the motion, noting there is "nothing irrelevant or superfluous" in the suit.

Defense Attorney Warren Woods denied the Sonnett claim that Anderson directed anyone to steal documents.

"How can a man come into court and charge Pearson and Anderson with prostituting their profession," asked Woods, "and then blandly

drop ten counts in a libel suit" against them?

He referred to the fact that Dodd originally filed a 14-count \$5 million libel action, then replaced it with a shorter \$2 million claim. Sonnett said he had amended the suit in order to narrow issues and expedite the case.

Sonnett also asked Judge Holtzoff yesterday to set a trial date some time in July. He indicated a willingness to waive a jury and have the matter tried before Holtzoff alone, John Donovan, Pearson's lawyer, says he wants a jury.

Holtzoff looked askance at a July trial. He has a vacation during that month, he said, and numerous pretrial depositions and other matters in the

Dodd case forbid an early trial.

When Sonnett expressed indignation over Boyd's alleged admission of stealing documents, Woods retorted, "Any administrative assistant who has reason to believe a Senator is involved in a crime or has abused his office is under an obligation not to conceal it."

"Yes, but he should tell it to the U.S. Attorney's Office or some other enforcement office," Holtzoff cut in.

Woods replied that Boyd in fact did tell the FBI.

"Yes, but there is a question of whether it was right to take documents from the office," the judge said.

Pearson and Anderson accused the 57-year-old Dodd in a series of articles early this year of helping businessmen get Government contracts and siphoning political campaign money for his own use.

The Senate Ethics Committee also has scheduled hearings into Dodd's conduct.